

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 08648 051128Z

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL IBADAN

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USIAC

FOR PARIS ARS

KADUNA PASS KANO

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: USIS LAGOS/NIIA FEDERALISMSEMINAR/CONFERENCE

REF: A. USIA 0677-U; B. CM-571-U C. LAGOS 4196-U

D. LAGOS 1310-U

1. IN JUNE-JULY, WE DISCUSSED OUR PROJECTED CPM PROJECT FOR A NIGERIAN-AMERICAN SEMINAR ON FEDERALISM WITH ACTING CABINET SECRETARY COLE, WHO WAS OFFICIAL NIGERIAN OBSERVER AT FEBRUARY FEDERALISM CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON. HE OBTAINED FMG SUPPORT FOR JOINT SEMINAR IN FEBRUARY-MARCH TIMEFRAME. FOLLOWING CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT AND MULTIPLE PERSONNEL SHIFTS, RESUMED DISCUSSION WITH DR. COLE WHO RETAINS PREVIOUS POSITION. HE SAID FMG REMAINS COMMITTED TO PROJECT WHICH WOULD BE HELD UNDER AUSPICES NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. YESTERDAY PAO AND CAO RAISED SUBJECT IO COURTESY CALL ON NEWLY-APPOINTED NIIA DIRECTOR GENERAL.

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PAGE 02 LAGOS 08648 051128Z

2. SCOPE OF SEMINAR NOW HAS EXTENDED TO 3-4 DAY

MEETING OF EXPERTS ON FEDERALISM FROM SEVERAL COUNTRIES WITH FEDERAL SYSTEMS. FMG WOULD COVER COSTS OF TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING FOR SOME PARTICIPANTS. NIIA DIRECTOR GENERAL UNDER PRESSURE TO SEND OUT INVITATIONS BY MID-MONTH. WE OFFERED POSSIBILITY SOME HELP (THROUGH IVG) WITH AMERICAN PARTICIPANTS IF NECESSARY AND WITH PROVISION OF SUPPORT MATERIALS IF DESIRED.

3. REQUEST RECOMMENDED TOP-LEVEL LIST OF 3 OR 4 POSSIBLE AMERICAN PARTICIPANTS IN SEMINAR TO BE HELD IN FEBRUARY OR EARLY MARCH. ORGANIZERS ARE INTERESTED IN INVITING SUPREME COURT JUSTICE MOST QUALIFIED IN THEORY AND PRACTICE OF FEDERALISM AS WELL AS LEADING SCHOLARS AND PRACTITIONERS COMBINING PRACTICAL WITH THEORETICAL KNOWLEDGE OF SUBJECT SUCH AS U.S. STATE GOVERNOR, U.S. SENATOR, ETC. CONCEPT WOULD BE FOR EACH PARTICIPANT TO PREPARE PAPER IN ADVANCE AND PARTICIPATE IN ONE OR MORE PANELS. NEED LIST OF 3-4 CANDIDATES WITH 3-4 ALTERNATES.

4. REQUEST LIST OF SUPPORT MATERIALS SUCH AS FILMS, EXHIBITS, DOCUMENTATION WHICH COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE IN CONNECTION WITH SEMINAR.

5. POST BELIEVES MAJOR EFFORT COOPERATION THIS PROJECT WORTHWHILE IN TERMS BOTH POTENTIAL SUBSTANTIVE RESULTS AND MISSION RELATIONS WITH IMPORTANT ELEMENTS OF NEW REGIME.

6. AGENCY MAY WISH CONSULT WITH DR. DANIEL EIAZAR, DIRECTOR TEMPLE UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR STUDY OF FEDERALISM, WHO MADE PRIVATE VISITS TO NIGERIA IN 1973 AND 1974.

7. FYI, NEW NIIA DG IS DR. BOIAJI AKINYEMI WHO RECEIVED BS FROM TEMPLE, MA FROM FLETCHER AND PH.D FROM OXFORD. AKINYEMI IS YOUNG, HIGHLY INTELLIGENT AND WELL-INFORMED INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SPECIALIST, FORMER PROFESSOR AT U IBADAN WHERE HE FREQUENTLY DREW ON USIS IBADAN SERVICES. HE HAS BEEN CRITIC OF SOME U.S. POLICIES.  
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PAGE 03 LAGOS 08648 051128Z

HEDGES

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